The popularity of Charlie Chaplin, which in *Modern Times* and *City Lights* survived even the talkies, has been due to his convincing impersonation of this abstraction, this average man, and consequent releasing in each individual breast of the self-pity contained there. Hitler has performed a similar feat, with Europe for his set and mankind for his audience, and with the finale still to come—the minute, lonely figure forlornly trudging along a winding road until he vanishes into the sunset, though perhaps in Hitler's case this finale may be reversed, and the sunset forlornly vanish into him. In a story by Mr. James Hilton, Hitler would be Mr. Hits.

Intuition makes possible such impersonations of the average man. He may also be synthetically produced—as the Economic Man of nineteenth-century economists, or Rousseau's Natural man, or the Marxists' Proletarian Man. These are symbols merely, used to balance an equation or populate a Utopia. Attempts to give them a semblance of life as fictitious characters invariably fail, and when those who accept their validity look for them in the flesh, they are always disappointed—like Tolstoy, who heard a peasant curse him as he passed by, and turned to remonstrate: 'But I'm Tolstoy!' only to have more furious curses called down upon him.

If, however, there is no average man, but only men, each to himself the centre of an incomprehensible universe, certain characteristic traits, a characteristic mental development, physiognomy even, may at all times be detected; but more easily in the distant past than yesterday. The distant past is like

a strange land whose characteristics are at once noticeable, whereas yesterday is still familiar and therefore difficult to explore; the dead who tell no tales, may be understood, but the living who tell many, are full of mystery. Nor has the prevailing fashion for unreticent autobiography altered this. Frankness is usually more uncommunicative than reticence. By pretending to tell everything,

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which appeared at public functions was one of several doubles who were available for this purpose.